



# North Carolina HEAD START Newsletter



A joint publication of the NC Head Start Association and the NC Head Start — State Collaboration Office.

Issue No.2 April 2009

### Greetings from the NCHSA President



Patricia Colón, MSA  
NCHSA President

I am pleased to have been chosen to lead North Carolina's wonderful Head Start community! As a former Head Start child, I am especially honored and humbled to have this opportunity. Please join me in congratulating and recognizing the new members of NCHSA's Governing Body. This is a dynamic and highly motivated group and we look forward to working closely with you to advocate for North Carolina's Head Start and Early Head Start children and their families and to advance the cause of Head Start in our state, region and nation.

Now is an exciting time for Head Start! We have been reauthorized and have the opportunity to expand our programs and services to reach more children and families. I encourage each of you to get involved with NCHSA and in your community. Together we can make a difference!

I look forward to working closely with each of you over the next two years as we unite to speak with one voice on behalf of children and their families in North Carolina.

Sincerely,  
  
Patricia Colón, MSA  
NCHSA President



The newly elected 2009-2011 Governing Board takes their oath of office on March 20, 2009 at the closing session of the NCHSA 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference



Board  
Members

### Greetings from the NC HSSCO Director

The NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) extends a warm welcome to the new President of NCHSA Patricia Colon, and all other newly-elected officers of the governing board! The HSSCO also salutes the work done by the previous administration led by Mr. Lacy Bell. In the midst of this administration change, there are new challenges and opportunities to which NCHSA can lead the way.

The Office of Head Start has begun to issue guidance on a weekly basis on many of the new requirements for Head Start and Early Head Start programs legislated in the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*. There are now new opportunities to strengthen existing Head Start programs and expand access to Early Head Start services through the \$2.1B funding increases resulting from the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. NCHSA is an important component of the Head Start system that can lend the needed support to existing and potential new grantees in North Carolina that will be impacted by these changes. This includes convening State conferences and regional meetings rich with content that is timely and aligned with Head Start's mission to support the work of staff, parents, and children.

As always, NCHSA provides a critical service to Head Start and Early Head Start programs in its advocacy work! You remain poised and ready to protect the interests of Head Start and Early Head Start programs in NC from harmful State and federal legislation that can threaten the well-functioning of these programs.

As we continue to meet the needs of the 25,000+ children birth to 5 and their families enrolled in Migrant/Seasonal and regional Head Start and Early Head Start programs, let us press on with a renewed commitment to "break the cycle of poverty."

In the spirit of collaboration,  
  
Khari M. Garvin, M.Ed  
Director, NC HSSCO

### Announcing the 2009 Head Start Collaboration Special Projects Interns!

The *Special Projects Internship Program* was created to nurture the development of a cadre of new leaders in Head Start for North Carolina. Promising leaders are selected via a competitive statewide process, and are offered a State-level perspective into the operations of the Head Start-State Collaboration Office and other State and federal programs that serve the interests of young children and families. The 2009 Special Projects Interns were chosen from a pool of candidates who demonstrated a history of significant early care and education experiences and strong program and community leadership. Beginning June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Interns will utilize their unique skills and perspectives to make weighty contributions to important projects intended to support State early childhood initiatives and federal priorities.

The NC Head Start – State Collaboration Office is pleased to present the inaugural class of Special Projects Interns:



Karl Allen

**Karl Allen** works for the Yadkin Valley Economic Development District, Inc. Head Start Program. He has 8 years of progressive experience in Head Start serving as a substitute teacher, assistant teacher, lead teacher, and currently as the Onsite Administrator at Jones Head Start center. In his current role, he manages a Head Start site serving 106 children and staffed by 12 teachers. Mr. Allen graduated from Ferrum in 1981 with an AA degree and was also named "Who's Who Among American Junior College Students." Karl Allen currently attends Winston Salem State University and is pursuing a BA degree in Early Childhood Education.

**Deborah Kalwat** earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University with endorsements in Developmental Disabilities, Learning Disabilities and Emotional Disturbance. She has taught exceptional children in 5 States and has worked as a writer and editor for Mailbox magazines and books. Deborah has been the Education Specialist for Family Services, Inc. Head Start in Winston-Salem since 2004. She oversees the implementation of the curriculum, the screening and assessment programs, and compliance with federal, State, and local regulations for classrooms serving 499 three and four year olds.



Deborah Kalwat

### Current Head Start Collaboration Office Initiatives

#### *Open to all HS & EHS staff and program managers*

North Carolina has experienced several major waves of immigrants over the past few decades. In the 1970's and 1980's, many Southeast Asian refugees arrived here after the fall of South Vietnam. The 1980's and 1990's saw a major influx of new residents from Latin American countries. North Carolina experienced the largest in-migration of Hispanic/Latinos of any State in the union from 1990 to 2000 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000). Many of these immigrants are eligible for Head Start & EHS services. **Is your program (and staff) fully equipped to serve them?**

The NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office is pleased to present the following professional development opportunity to HS & EHS teachers, family support staff, and administrators:





www.ncheadstart.org

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www.osr.nc.gov/HeadStart

## "Strengthening Cultural Competency and Interactions between HS & EHS staff and Immigrant Families in North Carolina"

This one-day training is delivered by UNC-Greensboro *Center for New North Carolinians* and is designed to help prepare teachers, family support staff, and administrators with understanding and addressing the following unique needs of immigrant families:

- Effective strategies to recruit immigrant and Latino families
- Information-sharing regarding research and best practice for serving immigrant and Latino families
- Strategies to measure the success and progress of a program's cultural competence
- Strategies to support programs by augmenting existing advisory and governing bodies with supports from the Latino and immigrant community

The training is **FREE** to all participating staff. There is a two-hour session for teachers and family support staff (10am – 12 noon), and a separate two-hour session for program administrators (1:30pm – 3:30pm). Please register via e-mail: [jan.ruiz@ncmail.net](mailto:jan.ruiz@ncmail.net).

The date and location for the final training is:

**Cluster E:** Western Carolina University, Ramsey Center Hospitality Room, **May 13, 2009**

## For HS & EHS teaching staff

### Early Educator Certification

North Carolina is the first in the nation to increase its workforce professional development standards by certifying the education of those who work directly with children aged birth to 12. *Early Educator Certification* is the new system that recognizes and validates the professional development levels of early childhood professionals. Early childhood teaching staff in all settings (Head Start, More at Four, private providers, etc) can have their transcripts reviewed to verify their level of education. Then they will be assigned a certification level by the *NC Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development* based on a standardized scale ranging from Level 1 to Level 10. Certified teaching staff will receive an official certificate and a wallet-sized Certification card. As with all professions, certified individuals will have to continue their education to maintain their certification.

There are over 500 teaching staff from about 25 Head Start and EHS programs across the State who have already received Early Education Certification. In an effort to involve all grantees in the State, the NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office has sponsored Early Educator Certifications for a very limited number of teaching staff from the following NC Head Start & EHS grantees:

Alexander County HS	Cleveland Co. HS	Mountain Area HS
Asheville City Schools HS	Family & Infant Pre-school	Onslow Co. HS
Bethlehem Center HS		Person Co. HS
Blue Ridge CA HS	Family Services HS/EHS	Polk Co. HS
Cabarrus Co. HS	Greene Lamp HS	McDowell Co. HS
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Pre-K/HS	Kannapolis City HS	Rutherford Co. HS
	Lumbie Regional HS	

For more information about how to participate in the Early Educator Certification initiative, contact the Certification Department at [info@nceec.org](mailto:info@nceec.org) or 919.942.7442.

## NCHSA Announces Parent, Teacher and Family Advocate of the Year winners

### 2009 Parent of the Year sponsored by Carolina Thomas, LLC

Twenty-eight Head Start and Early Head Start programs across North Carolina submitted their local Parent of the Year to compete for the title of 2009 NCHSA Parent of the Year. All 28 parents were recognized at the event with a gift.

Ms. Rochelle Stuart, the 2007 NCHSA Parent of the Year and current Parent Representative to the NCHSA Governing Board, was the keynote speaker at the Parent Awards Ceremony, held March 18 at the Embassy Suites in downtown Winston-Salem.

Ms. Beverly Carter, 2007-2009 NCHSA Governing Board Parent Representative, and Mr. Lacy Bell, Jr., 2005-2009 NCHSA President, presented Ms. Ladrinda R. Sellars with the 2009 NCHSA Parent of the Year award. Representing Carolina Thomas, LLC was Mr.



Pictured L to R: Phil Loflin, Ladrinda Sellars, Beverly Carter

Phil Loflin, who announced that Ms. Sellars would also receive a \$1000.00 check as part of her award.

Ms. Sellars is the parent of a child enrolled at the Four-County Community Services Head Start Program in Laurinburg, NC. She is a member of the Center Parent Committee as well as the program's Policy Council, through which she advocates for young children in her community. She is enrolled in the Early Childhood program in her local community college and is working on attaining her commercial driver's license.

Ms. Sellars' Parent of the Year application will be submitted to represent North Carolina compete at the Regional and National levels.

### 2009 Teacher of the Year sponsored by Kaplan Early Learning Company



Pictured L to R: Art Guye, Rebecca Cooper, Steve Cooper

Six Teacher of the Year finalists, two each from three of the four Clusters, were invited to the 2009 NCHSA Awards Banquet to find out which would be named the 2009 NCHSA Teacher of the Year.

The Awards Banquet was held on March 19 at the

Embassy Suites in downtown Winston-Salem.

Cluster A finalists were Diann Dixon, Martin County Community Action Head Start; and Amber Metcalf, W.A.G.E.S. Head Start/Early Head Start. Cluster C finalists were Rebecca Cooper, Cabarrus County Head Start; and Glenda Weaver, Kannapolis City Schools Head Start. Cluster E finalists were Joyce Smith, McDowell County Schools Head Start; and Simone Casteel, W.C.C.A. Head Start.

Mr. Art Guye, representing Kaplan Early Learning Company, was on hand to present Ms. Rebecca Cooper with the 2009 Teacher of the Year Award, including a \$1000.00 check and a kitchen combo set for her classroom.

Ms. Cooper's Teacher of the Year application will be submitted to represent North Carolina and compete at the Regional and National levels.

### 2009 Family Advocate of the Year sponsored by GenesisEarth

Five Family Advocate of the Year finalists were invited to the 2009 Awards Banquet to find out which would be named NCHSA's 2009 Family Advocate of the Year.

Cluster A finalists were Edna Spencer, Martin County Community Action Head Start; and Verona Williams, W.A.G.E.S. Head Start/Early Head Start. Cluster B finalists were Amy Mowery, Orange County Head Start/Early Head Start; and Janet Bryant, Four County Community Services Head Start. The Cluster E finalist was Melody Hedden, Macon Program for Progress Head Start.

Mr. Channell Wilkins, representative of GenesisEarth and former Director of the Office of Head Start in Washington, DC, was on hand to present Ms. Melody Hedden with the 2009 Family Advocate of the Year Award, including a \$1000.00 check.

Ms. Hedden's Family Advocate of the Year application will be submitted to represent North Carolina and compete at the Regional and National levels.



Pictured L to R: Channell Wilkins, Melody Hedden



## CLUSTER NEWS

### 2009-2011 Cluster Chairpersons announced

Representatives from each of the Clusters announced their newly elected chairpersons, officers and representatives to the NCHSA Governing Board. Cluster chairpersons named were:  
Cluster A: **Sandra Noble**, Martin County Comm. Action Head Start  
Cluster B: **Tonie Brite**, Four County Community Services Head Start  
Cluster C: **Martha Williams**, Kannapolis City Schools Head Start  
Cluster E: **Mary Campbell**, E.C.C.C.M. Head Start  
For a complete list of officers and Governing Board representatives, visit [www.ncheadstart.org](http://www.ncheadstart.org).

### Cluster A plans for 2009-2010

Sandra Noble, newly elected Cluster A Chairperson, announces that the Cluster A Planning Meeting will take place on May 5 at the Tele-conference Center in Williamston. The fall training will be hosted by W.A.G.E.S. Head Start in Goldsboro. Dates being considered for the fall event include October 15 or October 27.

## Early Childhood Training Opportunities

### Free Infant-Toddler Foundation training available through June

*Infant-Toddler Foundations* training is available through June 30, 2009! This training is FREE and is available to any provider of infant-toddler services. The training content addresses the five (5) domains of learning for children birth to 3 and connects development and learning to the Early Learning Standards. Infant-Toddler Foundations training is delivered on a regional basis. Please contact the following trainers from the Early Head Start community across the State to learn about upcoming training dates:

**Rowan County:** Christine Gray, <704.637.8662>

**Henderson / Transylvania Counties:** Jessie Budzinski, <jhatch@wcca.net>

**Buncombe County:** Leslie Kochanowski, <lkochanowski@macfc.org>

**Guilford County:** Norma Hinderliter, <norma@guilfordchilddev.org> or Vivien Stearns, <vivien@guilfordchilddev.org>

**Wayne County:** Betty Faison, <bfaison@wagesnc.org> or Dorothy King, <king@wagesnc.org>

### Poverty Simulation Training

The NC Community Action Association has partnered with the NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office to deliver a cluster of poverty simulation trainings to individuals working with low-income people. The poverty simulation experience is designed to help participants gain an understanding of what it is typically like to live in poverty, while trying to survive from month-to-month. The training opportunities will begin in the fall and will be made available at no cost to the staff of agencies that have the mission to break the cycle of poverty including Community Action Agencies, Head Start/Early Head Start, More At Four, and Even Start family literacy programs

### RIVHSA 2009 Standards of Excellence

The Region IV Head Start 2009 Standards of Excellence Conference, *Managing Strategic Issues and Resources*, will be held July 13-16, 2009 at the Atlanta Hilton and Towers, Atlanta, Georgia. Visit [www.rivhsa.org](http://www.rivhsa.org) for details.

### Smart Start 2009 National Conference

The North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCP) 2009 National Conference will be held May 5-8, 2009 at the Greensboro Sheraton Koury Convention Center. For details, visit [www.smartstart-nc.org](http://www.smartstart-nc.org).

### NCCAA 2009 Annual Conference

The North Carolina Community Action Association's Annual Conference will be held May 18-22, 2009 at the Downtown Raleigh Marriott on Fayetteville Street. The conference theme is *Change: New Leadership, New Opportunities*. Pre-conference activities will be held May 18-19. The conference will be held May 20-22. For details visit [www.nccaa.net](http://www.nccaa.net).

